

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4964

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IT,MILI, MPOL, PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: ITALIANAMBASSADOR'S VIEWS ON NATO STANDARDIZATION

REF: A. STATE 200959 DTG 222356Z AUG 75

B. STATE 208189 DTG 022232Z SEP 75

C. USNATO 4901 NOTAL

D. USNATO 4819 DTG 051025Z SEP 75

E. STATE 176498 DTG 252330Z SEP 75

SUMMARY: AM BRUCE'S CONSULTATIONS WITH AMB CATALANO (ITALY) DISCLOSED SUPPORT FOR US EFFORTS TO INVOLVE NAC IN STANDARDIZATION. CATALANO CLEARLY CONSIDERED KEY FACTOR IN US INITIATIVE WAS THAT WE HAVE OFFERED WAY TO INVOLVE FRANCE IN GREATER COOPERATION IN DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF ARMAMENTS. NEVERTHELESS, CATALANO SAW NEED FOR EUROPE TO HAVE A COMMON POSITION IN THIS FIELD AND REGRETTED EUROGROUP HAD NOT DEVELOPED ONE AS YET. END SUMMARY.

1. AMB BRUCE CALLED ON AMB CATALANO (ITALY) SEPT 11 TO DISCUSS
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STANDARDIZATION ALONG LINES REF A AND B. CATALANO WELCOMED US EFFORTS BUT DID NOT COMMENT ON SPECIFIC ASPECTS SUCH AS TIMING OF INITIAL NAC DISCUSSIONS, OR COMPOSITION AND ROLE OF PROPOSED STEERING COMMITTEE. HE DID DISCUSS, HOWEVER, FRANCE'S

POSITION AT SOME LENGTH.

2. CATALANO'S MAIN POINT WAS THAT US EFFORTS HAVE PRODUCED FIRST SIGN OF FRENCH WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN NATO STANDARDIZATION. HE NOTED THAT EUROGROUP HAS BEEN UNABLE TO SECURE THIS PARTICIPATION, EVEN ON "EX POST FACTO" BASIS, AND ITS FAILURE HAS HINDERED EUROPEAN EFFORTS TO PROVIDE STANDARDIZATION AND GREATER COOPERATION IN THE "TWO-WAY STREET" CONTEXT. HE SAW NO PROSPECT FOR FRANCE JOINING EUROGROUP. CATALANO SAID THAT FRANCE IS SO IMPORTANT TO ARMAMENTS FIELD THAT HE FAVORS THE US IDEA OF HAVING THE NAC UNDERTAKE STANDARDIZATION WORK, ALTHOUGH HE CHARACTERIZED NAC ROUTE AS "NEXT BEST" WAY TO A "EUROPEAN SOLUTION" INVOLVING FRANCE.

3. IN THIS REGARD, CATALANO EMPHASIZED THAT ITALY SAW NEED FOR A EUROPEAN POSITION IN STANDARDIZATION WORK. HE WAS SORRY THAT THE EUROGROUP POSITION (DISCUSSED REF D) WAS NOT AVAILABLE YET. CATALANO WAS PLEASED THAT US POSITION NOW WAS AVAILABLE. HE HAD HEARD FROM WASHINGTON (WE ASSUME THROUGH ITALIAN EMBASSY) THAT US INITIATIVE WAS ON THE WAY AND WOULD CENTER ABOUT NAC TAKING ON TASK TO IMPROVE STANDARDIZATION IN NATO. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT US HAD SELECTED NAC PRECISELY SO AS TO INVOLVE FRANCE. CATALANO MENTIONED ON TWO OCCASIONS THAT AMB DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) HAD FORECAST FRANCE'S WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN NAC WORK.

4. AS IN PREVIOUS CONSULTATIONS, AMB BRUCE LEFT COPIES OF TALKING POINTS, PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF A, AND PAPER ON "US VIEWS ON ESSENTIAL BASES FOR STANDARDIZATION", WHICH DREW ON REF E.
BRUCE

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